

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Claims 1 and 3-19 are all the claims pending in the Application, as claims 16-19 are hereby added and as claim 2 is hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-13 have been rejected as being indefinite, and claims 1, 3-6, 8, 11, 12 and 15 have been rejected in view of prior art.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 14 is allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2, 7, 9, 10 and 13 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant hereby rewrites independent claims 1 and 15 to include the features of allowable claim 2, and cancels claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, independent claims 1 and 15, along with dependent claims 3-13, are now believed to be immediately allowable.

Further, Applicant hereby adds new claims 16-19. New claims 16 and 17 correspond to allowable claims 7 and 9 rewritten in independent form. New claims 18 and 19 correspond to claims 10 and 13. These claims are thus believed to be immediately allowable.

Indefiniteness Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-13 as allegedly being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Independent claim 1 has been amended in a clarifying manner, as the Examiner has suggested, to overcome this rejection. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Obviousness Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-6, 8, 11, 12 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over various alleged combinations of cited references.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/756,876

Attorney Docket # Q62523

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of independent claims 1 and 15 (and of claims 3-6, 8, 11 and 12 dependent from claim 1) are now moot, as independent claims 1 and 15 have been rewritten to include the features of allowable claim 2.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

New Claims

Claims 16-19 are hereby added, as discussed above.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 3-19 are allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance with all of the claims 1 and 3-19.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, except for the Issue Fee, to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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